

## New Program Proposal

# Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling, Graduate Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling (MSJC) certificate may be pursued as a stand-alone credential or in conjunction with another mental health program (such as: Master's Degree in Education in counseling, the Master's in Social Work degree, the Ed.D. or the Ph.D. in Education, or the PhD in Clinical Psychology). With advance planning, all 12 credits may be applied to the Master's of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree. Completion of the MSJC certificate, however, does not guarantee acceptance into any other degree program (separate application required for admission).

## Admission Requirements

Requirements for admission to the MSJC certificate program are: current "good standing" (non-probation) in an UMSL graduate mental health practitioner training program (counseling, social work, or psychology) **OR** all of the following criteria must be met:

1. Undergraduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 or better;
2. Enrollment in a graduate mental health practitioner training program OR earned master's degree in mental health field;
3. Two letters of recommendation with at least one from a current or former college-level instructor (or someone with a graduate degree who can attest to the applicant's capacity to complete graduate-level work);
4. Two-page personal statement explaining the applicant's personal and professional goals.

## Certificate Requirements

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Core		
CNS ED 6030	Foundations for Multicultural Counseling	3

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or CNS ED 7010	Advanced Multicultural Counseling
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<b>Electives</b>	<b>9</b>
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Choose three of the following:

CNS ED 6220	Counseling Individuals with Disabilities
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CNS ED 6810	Integrating Religion and Spirituality in Counseling
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CNS ED 6820	Counseling Women Toward Empowerment
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CNS ED 6830	Counseling African American Clients
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CNS ED 6840	Counseling Sexual and Gender Minorities
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CNS ED 6850	Social Class and Poverty Issues in Counseling
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CNS ED 6870	Counseling and Cultural Competence in a Global Society
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Any other CNS ED 6800-level courses as offered

<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>12</b>
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Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

Department	Contact Person	Phone #	Objections
S007050	Michael Griffin		No

## Rationale

The UMSL counseling program is qualified to establish a graduate certificate program in multicultural and social justice counseling due to the established history and commitment of the program to training multiculturally-competent school and clinical mental health counselors to serve clients in urban environments. Our faculty members regularly infuse multicultural and social justice concepts into foundational coursework in counseling. We also offer a good selection of advanced multicultural counseling courses (listed in the electives category above) that provide students with the knowledge and skills to work with specific cultural groups. In addition, many of our faculty members engage in scholarship that falls under the multicultural and social justice counseling umbrella. As our society becomes more and more diverse and as more individuals from a wide diversity of cultural backgrounds are engaging with counselors, it is imperative that mental health professionals approach their clients from a multicultural and social justice orientation. The proposed certificate provides helping professionals a pathway to developing or strengthening this critical orientation. Students who obtain this certificate should be very attractive to employers seeking multiculturally competent mental health professionals in the St. Louis region. The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook (2020) projects much faster job growth (22%) than average in the next decade for mental health counselors as more people continue to seek mental health counseling. This certificate program will not require additional resources. Existing faculty members provide the needed expertise for this program, and the required courses are regularly scheduled